

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00405 260915Z

53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 XMB-07 IO-14 LAB-06 SIL-01 FEA-02

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R 260855Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3966

UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0405

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, ETRD, LU

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FOREIGN STEEL INDUSTRIES

REF: STATE 127209

1. THE DIRECTOR OF THE LUXEMBOURG STEEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION HAS SUPPLIED EMBASSY WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN REPLY TO REQUESTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

2. CURRENT MAXIMUM RAW STEEL PRODUCTION IS 7.2 MILLION METRIC TONS.

3. THERE IS NO ESTIMATE OF STEEL PRODUCTION FOR 1980. PROVISIONAL FIGURES SHOW A PLANNED CAPACITY OF 7.88 MILLION TONS IN 1978. THERE ARE NO ESTIMATES OF COSTS FOR INCREASING CAPACITY. MAJORITY OF LUXEMBOURG INVESTMENTS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY ARE AIMED AT RATION-
NALIZATION AND MODERNIZATION AND NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO ESTIMATE WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THESE INVESTMENTS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY ARE PRIMARILY DIRECTED TOWARD AN INCREASE IN PRODUCTION. INVESTMENTS DURING THE PAST THREE
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00405 260915Z

YEARS HAVE AVERAGED BETWEEN 2 AND 3 BILLION BELGIAN

FRANCS. INVESTMENT IN 1974 IS EXPECTED TO BE OF THE SAME MAGNITUDE IN MONEY TERMS (3 BILLION BF) AS IN 1973. A NEW FIVE-YEAR MODERNIZATION PLAN IS NOW BEING DEVELOPED FOR THE ALLOCATION OF INVESTMENTS FROM 1975 ONWARD, BUT NO ESTIMATES OF PLANNED EXPENDITURES ARE YET AVAILABLE.

4. NEARLY ALL OF LUXEMBOURG'S STEEL PRODUCTION IS EXPORTED. IN 1973, ONLY 286,000 MT OUT OF A TOTAL OF 5.2 MILLION MT, OR LESS THAN SIX PERCENT OF LUXEMBOURG'S STEEL PRODUCTION WAS CONSUMED BY THE LOCAL MARKET. THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF WHAT AMOUNT WILL BE CONSUMED LOCALLY IN 1980, ALTHOUGH THE PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCTION CONSUMED IN LUXEMBOURG IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE GREATER THAN FIVE PERCENT.

5. THE STEEL INDUSTRY GROUP HAS MADE NO ESTIMATE OF THE 1980 EXPORT MARKETS ALTHOUGH THE PATTERN OF EXPORTS IS EXPECTED TO BE SIMILAR TO THE PRESENT ONE. FIGURES OF EXPORT SHIPMENTS FOR 1972 AND 1973 INDICATE THE MAJOR MARKETS ARE WEST GERMANY, FRANCE AND BELGIUM:

IN THOUSAND METRIC TONS

	1972	1973	
WEST GERMANY	1.198	1.258	
BELGIUM	599	818	
FRANCE	508	646	
ITALY	112	107	
LUXEMBOURG	239	286	
NETHERLANDS	224	303	
TOTAL EC H	2.882	3.420	
OTHER COUNTRIES	1.357	1.565	OO TALHYVQVMAWWGLHT 4.239
	4.985		

6. FOR EMBASSY'S LATEST STEEL INDUSTRY REPORT SEE A-22, APRIL 10, 1974. FARKAS

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